

Additional references

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Comments on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Achatina janiï***De Betta & Martinati, 1855 (currently *Cecilioides janiï*; Mollusca, Gastropoda)**

(Case 3233; see BZN 59: 77–81)

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We ask the Commission, for the sake of universality in the scientific names of animals, not to make use of its plenary power to suppress the name *Cecilioides veneta* in favour of *C. janiï*. The reason for this is that we do not agree with Giusti & Manganelli (BZN 59: 79) that *C. veneta* (Strobel, 1855) is a 'virtually unused name'. In the last hundred years, *C. veneta* has been used in two well-known monographs dealing with the malacofauna of the Südtirol (Riezler, 1929, p. 161) and the Dolomites (Thorson, 1930, p. 229). In addition, we do not agree with Giusti & Manganelli (BZN 59: 77) that, after the publication of De Betta's work (1864), the specific name of *C. janiï* (De Betta & Martinati, 1855) was used 'by virtually all subsequent authors'. In fact, the name *C. aciculoides* (De Cristofori & Jan, 1832) was used for the snail species under consideration by Ehrmann (1933, p. 78), Eder (1914, p. 85), Mermod (1930, p. 371) and Jaekel (1962, p. 147). Only after Giusti's 1976 work was *C. janiï* used for this *Cecilioides* species.

Recently the name *C. veneta* has been used in two important monographs: the Checklist of the European Continental Mollusca (CLECOM checklist) (Falkner, Bank & von Proschwitz, 2001, p. 45) and the checklist of French continental molluscs (Falkner, Ripken & Falkner, 2002, pp. 42, 116). The primary goal of the CLECOM initiative is to produce a stable nomenclature for European non-marine molluscs by carrying out nomenclatural revisions based on the provisions of the Code. The CLECOM initiative is widely accepted.

Additional references

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In their comment above, Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger have not produced a single argument to falsify the important points in our application (see paras. 6 and 7 in BZN 59: 79). For example, they note that the name *Cecilioides veneta* (Strobel, 1855) has been used in ‘two well-known monographs’ dealing with the malacofauna of the Südtirol (Riezler, 1929 and Thorson, 1930). However, Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger (2000, p. 100) recorded that they discovered the name *C. veneta* by ‘digging in the old literature’. If the name was so well known, why was ‘digging’ required to discover it? The use of *C. veneta* by Riezler and Thorson was noted in our application.

Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger also disagree that De Betta’s (1864) adoption of the name *Achatina janii* was followed by ‘virtually all subsequent authors’. We have shown this to be the case in our application. In para. 5 of our application, we recorded that there were at least 27 publications by 33 different authors between 1971 and 1999 (a period of 29 years) in which the name had been used. This considerable amount of usage contrasts with the two monographs and four references produced by Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger for the use of *C. veneta* during the last hundred years. These publications are demonstrably not all subsequent to the paper by Giusti (1976).

Some time ago (see Giusti, 1976, p. 234) it became clear to us that the continued use of the name *C. aciculoides* sensu De Betta (1852) by some authors (mainly German zoologists) occurred because De Betta’s papers (and those of other Italian authors who adopted the replacement name *C. janii*) remained unknown because of language difficulties.

Finally, Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger note that the aim of the CLECOM initiative is the production of a stable nomenclature for European non-marine molluscs based on the provisions of the Code. Obviously, this aim is not unique to the CLECOM group; all malacologists are concerned with this task. The CLECOM initiative may be ‘widely accepted’, but some of its proposals have been questioned by some malacologists. Bank, Falkner & Gittenberger themselves (2000) noted that ‘the name *Cecilioides veneta* (Strobel, 1855) has to be used for a species which has in the past been referred to as *C. aciculoides* or *C. janii*’. Replacement of the well-known name *C. janii* is contrary to the Code and its provisions for maintaining stability in nomenclature (see Article 23.9.3).